

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action of August 16, 2004 in which claims 1-3 and 9 were rejected. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 4-8 from consideration. With this response, claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 are amended and all pending claims are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted a typographical error in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 may be withdrawn.

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 based upon Wolf (U.S. Patent No. 4,375,944). With this response, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the eccentric portion of the connecting rod as disposed at the lower end of the crank shaft. It is believed that this is the opposite configuration shown or suggested by Wolf and/or Abe (U.S. Patent No. 4,236,879).

Therefore, the two references do not show this configuration, and, in fact, teach away from this configuration. It is believed that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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